

lodged a complaint with the Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum.

7. Punjab National Bank, Faidabad Branch:

Complaint was received on 23.9.88 about theft from lockers. CBI did not find the case fit for investigation and the Bank has declined the claim.

8. Punjab National Bank, The Mall Road Branch, Delhi:

Complaint was received on 8.1.92 about the missing of 10 bangles of one to each. The Police have made preliminary investigation.

9. Dena Bank, Park Circus Branch, Calcutta:

RBI had received a complaint in February 1989, about the alleged theft of 10 articles of jewellery weighing approx. 50 tolas of gold from the locker of the complainant.

10. Canara Bank, Mysore Branch:

RBI had received a complaint in March, 1989 about the alleged theft of a gold necklace weighing more than 5 tolas from the locker of the complainant.

(i) The banks have their own internal instructions/guidelines for the maintenance and operation of lockers. RBI has advised the banks to take precautionary measures particularly with regard to the location of the vault, nature of lockers, need for burglar alarm systems and liaison with local Police.

[Translation]

Production and Demand of Gold

1705. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the yearly production of gold and its estimated public demand;

(b) whether smuggling in gold is resorted to due to the wide gap in its demand and supply; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to fulfil the demand of gold from various sources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). Gold has been traditionally sensitive to smuggling into the country on account of gap between the domestic demand and supply and also because of the difference between low international prices and higher domestic prices. The annual production of primary gold in the country during the last 3 financial years is given below:-

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Quantity (kgs)</i>
1988-89	2066.19
1989-90	2154.30
1990-91	2093.30

Since gold is not an essential commodity, the Government does not regulate its supply in the domestic market. However, as announced in the Budget Speech of 29th February, 1992, import of gold on payment of customs duty has been allowed to passengers of Indian origin and Indian passport holders upto a quantity of 5 kgs. subject to certain conditions. It is not possible to estimate its demand in the country.

[English]

Decline in Small Savings.

1706. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: